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NORWAY ASSISTS GOLDSTONE COMMISSION IN ESTABLISHING INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE

Statement by Mr. Johan Jorgen Holst, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway (28 April 1993)

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The following statement was issued by the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Johan Jorgen Holst, in Cape Town on Wednesday, 28 April 1993:

"The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has expressed on several occasions its concern at the level of violence in South Africa and its willingness to be of assistance in addressing the problems of violence.

"To this end a two-person mission was sent by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry in June/July 1992 to investigate how best such assistance could be offered.

"After wide consultations, the mission identified a need in South Africa for a fully comprehensive and well-coordinated computer-based information service relating to incidents of public violence and intimidation.

"In subsequent discussions between Judge Richard J. Goldstone and the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, technical and financial assistance was offered to establish an Institute under the aegis of the Goldstone Commission to fulfil that need.

"In accepting the Norwegian Government's generous offer which includes a financial grant and the services of two highly skilled and internationally experienced consultants for an initial period of eight months, Judge Goldstone expressed his appreciation and emphasized the need for a service of this kind.

"Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Johan Jorgen Holst, stated that an efficient control of violence in South Africa was a necessary condition for the holding of free and fair elections to a Constituent Assembly. He hoped that Norway's contribution to the establishment of a violence-monitoring institute under the Goldstone Commission would be a meaningful contribution for this purpose.

"The body to be established will be called the Institute for the Study of Public Violence. The objectives will be:

(a) To collect, capture, analyse and publish information relating to public violence and intimidation;

(b) To provide the Commission with an instrument that will greatly increase its capacity to carry out its mandate effectively;

(c) To create a fully credible, well coordinated database and analytical capacity that will as it develops be able

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to serve as a resource for other agencies, local and international, and the public at large;

(d) To offer training in methods of reporting on monitoring and the use of electronic communication systems to all formations that wish to contribute to and make use of the Institute's services; and

(e) To create an immediate capacity to process, analyze and publish relevant information regarding any elections or referendums to be held in South Africa.

"The Norwegian Government wishes the Goldstone Commission success with the Research Institute, and will continue to support its important work."